



BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1924.

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN, M.B., C.M.
Medical Officer of Health.

Thomas Robson, Printer, Percy Street, Blyth.



BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Alderman C. NEALE	Chairman.
Councillor G. EMMERSON	Vice-Chairman.
Alderman G. DUNN, J.P.	
Alderman A. CARR.	
Alderman J. GOULDING, J.P.	
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Councillor MATHER.	
Councillor REAY.	
Councillor MURDY.	
Councillor GOWENS.	
Councillor RITSON	



Borough of Blyth.

Health Department,

WELLINGTON HOUSE,
BLYTH.

To Alderman Neale (Chairman), and Members of the
Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for 1924.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Borough.

Population—at the census in 1921 it was 31,833.
 1922 " 32,630.
 1923 " 32,950.

For 1924—The Registrar General estimates our population in the middle of the year at 33,350. This estimate will be used in all the necessary calculations for Birth and Death Rates, etc.

Industries of the Borough—Unfortunately for the prosperity of the Borough, the shipbuilding and ship-repairing trades have been anything but fully employed during the past year, while the coal trade has also experienced depressed times, so much so, that the collieries at Bebside and New Delaval have had to close for the latter months of the year, with the resultant unemployment.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Notwithstanding the economic conditions resulting from the lack of employment with the consequent lessening of the of the family income, the Health of the Borough during the past year has been exceptionally good. As will be seen from the statistical tables the various rates compare most favourably with the size of the towns amongst which we are classified. Especially I would draw the attention of your Council to the great reduction of the Infantile Mortality Rate. In 1923 it was 106.3 per 1000 births while in 1924 it is 80.71. The number of babies under 1 year dying last year being 72 as against 92 in 1923.

This decrease is very gratifying, and in my opinion is due in a great measure to the untiring efforts of the Health Visitors, both at the Child Welfare Centre and in their house to house visits in the Borough, to instil into the minds of the mothers the best advice possible for the upbringing of their children.

The increased attendance at the Welfare Centre is a sure indication that the advice and instruction given there is being appreciated by the mothers. During the year, 314 mothers attended, making a total attendance of 1183, or an average attendance per session of 24.

Slow but sure progress is being made with the conversion of the privy type of sanitary convenience into that of the water carriage system.

There has been a marked increase in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.

In 1924, 823 cases, in 1923, 482 cases.

This increase has been due principally to the fact that your Council made Chicken Pox a notifiable disease, at the same time Scarlet Fever cases show an increase.

Although Smallpox has been prevalent in practically all the districts to the landward side of the Borough, only two cases of the disease were reported—one in Bebside Ward and the other in Plessey Ward. There was no connection between the two cases. Prompt measures were taken to isolate the patients, vaccinate and keep the contacts under supervision.



The negotiations for the construction of a storage reservoir at Bebside are still going on.

The need for an up-to-date Hospital for the treatment of Infectious Diseases still exists.

APPENDIX.

I General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	4509 acres
Population (1924)	...	...	33350
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	6846
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) approximately	...	...	7346
Rateable Value	...	...	£165716
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£606

2 Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year.

	Total	M	F	
Births { Legitimate	... 866	424	442	Birth Rate 26.74.
Illegitimate	... 26	18	8	
Deaths	... 467			Death Rate 14.
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth	{	from Sepsis	...	1
	"	other causes	...	3
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births				
Legitimate ... 68	Illegitimate ... 4			Total 72.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	3
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	3
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	7

BIRTHS,

During the year the total number of births registered as belonging to the Borough was 892.

This is equivalent to a Birth Rate of 26.74 per 1000 population.

For 1923 the rate was 26.25 per 1000 population and the total number of births 865 in number.

Comparing the figure for the Borough with the Registrar General's table X we find the birth rate per 1000 population to be :—

For England and Wales	...	18·8
For London alone	...	18·7
For 105 Great Towns	...	19·4 population over 50,000
For 157 Smaller Towns	...	18·9 ,, from 20-50,000
For Blyth	...	26·64

It will be seen from these statistics that our Birth Rate is well above the average of the smaller towns amongst whom we are classified,

The Births registered were :—

		M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	...	424	442	866
Illegitimate	...	18	8	26
Total		442	450	892

DEATHS—

The total number of deaths from all causes, including outwarding of inwards transfers, registered as belonging to the Borough is 467.

This is equal to a Death Rate of 14 per 1000 population comparing this figure with the Registrar General's table X, the annual death rates per 1000 population are :—

For England and Wales	...	12·2
For London alone	...	12·1
For 105 large towns	...	12·3 population over 50,000
For 157 smaller towns	...	11·2 ,, from 20-50,000
For Blyth	...	14

Comparing these figures it will be seen that the death rate for Blyth exceeds by 2·8 per 1000 population, the average death rate of the smaller town amongst which we are classified.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year registered as belonging to the Borough is 72, as compared with 92 in 1923.

This gives a Mortality Rate of 80.71 per 1000 children born and constitutes a record. In 1923 the rate was 106.3.

Comparing this figure with the Register General's Table X the Infantile Mortality Rates are given :—

For England and Wales	...	75
For London alone	..	69
For 105 Great Towns	...	80
For 157 Smaller Towns	...	71
For Blyth	...	80

This decrease in the Mortality Rate is very gratifying and is a sure evidence that the work of the Health Visitors, both in their house to house visitations and the advice and instruction given at the Welfare Centre as to the care, feeding and management of the children is bearing good fruit.

It is noteworthy, however, that a large proportion of the deaths 33 in number, are due to Premature Birth and causes associated therewith.

Table of Infantile Mortality for 1924. Monthly incidence. Ages of children. Causation of Death.

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.			1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1-yr.
January	2	...	...	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	10	
February	4	...	...	1	5	5	4	...	4	4	18	
March	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	5	...	...	9	
April	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	4	
May	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	1	1	5	
June	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	
July	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	
August	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	
September	3	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	5	
October	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	4	
November	1	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	5	
December	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	3	
Totals	25	...	1	3	29	12	10	7	14	72		

Measles	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	2
Premature Birth	...	17
Convulsions	...	5
Cardiac Debility	...	2
Bronchitis	...	6
Enteritis	...	2
Pneumonia	...	17
Debility	...	6
Malformation	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	2
Malnutrition	...	1
Meningitis	...	2
Overlying	...	1
Gastric Catarrh	...	1
Difficult Labour	..	2
Ashpyxia Pallida	...	1
Otitis Media	...	1

Total 72

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1924.

Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1924, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1923. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

Table III.—Deaths registered during the Calendar
Year 1924 in
BLYTH BOROUGH.

(CIVILIANS ONLY).

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	229	193
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	2	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	..	...
Whooping Cough	...	..	1	2
Diphtheria	...	...	..	1
Influenza	...	...	9	6
Encephalitis Le hargica	...	...	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	23	17	
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	7	9	
Cancer, malignant disease	...	12	16	
Rheumatic Fever	..	2	..	
Diabetis	...	1	2	
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	8	9	
Heart disease	..	16	16	
Arterio-sclerosis	..	6	3	
Bronchitis	..	10	11	
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	32	24	
Other respiratory diseases	...	2	5	
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	...	3	2	
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	6	1	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	2	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	1	
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	8	8	
Puerperal sepsis	...	..	1	
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	..	3	
Congenital Debility and malformation... premature birth	...	21	12	
Suicide	...	4	2	
Other Deaths from violence	...	15	2	
Other defined diseases	..	33	34	
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	3	3	
Spec'l Causes (included above) Poliomyelitis	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	47	25	
Illegitimate	...	2	2	
Total Births	...	442	450	
Legitimate	...	424	442	
Illegitimate	...	18	8	
Population }			33,350	

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As compared with 1923, the number of cases of Infectious Diseases show an increase, which is principally due to your Council having made Chicken-Pox a notifiable disease.

296 cases were notified.

Comparision Table.

	1924	1923
Smallpox	2	—
Scarlet Fever	164	161
Diphtheria	26	25
Enteric Fever	9	2
Puerperal Fever	1	—
Pneumonia	180	136
Erysipelas	17	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	18	17
Encephalitis Letharigica	7	—
Malaria	2	4
Chicken Pox	296	14
 Total	 722	 482

It will be seen from Table III that 74 patients were admitted to hospital for treatment, the Scarlet Fever cases numbering 56. It is evident from the increased number of patients admitted to hospital that parents are realizing the benefits of hospital treatment for their children.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever	164	55	—
Diphtheria	26	9	1
Enteric Fever (incl. Para Typhoid)	9	6	1
Puerperal Fever	1	—	1
Pneumonia	180	—	56
Erysipelas	17	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	18	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	7	—	2
Malaria	2	1	—
Chicken Pox	296	—	—
Total	722	74	61

It will be noted from the above table of what are termed Infectious Diseases—Scarlet Fever and Chicken Pox have been the most prevalent: Fortunately, in the former, the disease was of a mild type, there being no fatalities.

Chicken Pox was made notifiable by your Council in view of the similarity of the symptoms of the disease to those of Smallpox, which has been so prevalent in various parts of the country during the past year.

In regard to other Infectious Diseases :—

Small Pox—

Although we cannot show a clean bill of health as regards this disease it is a matter of congratulation, that with the disease present in practically all the districts round about us, only 2 cases were reported for the year. The cases had no connection with each other. Prompt measures were taken to isolate the patients, all the contacts were vaccinated or advised to be re-vaccinated. It is to be regretted that the general public do not avail themselves of vaccination and re-vaccination, while not a guarantee of absolute immunity from the disease, it nevertheless is of great protective value.

Diphtheria—

The number of cases reported is one more than the previous year,—

		1924	1923.
Number of cases	...	26	25
", Deaths	...	1	2
Admitted to Hospital	...	9	4
Units of Serum used	...	14400	10800

Pneumonia—

Notifications for 1924 were 180 as compared with 130 in 1923 with 56 deaths.

Enteric Eeever—

Notifications received were 9 this year as compared with 2 last year.

6 cases were admitted to Hospital, and all made a good recovery.

Erysipelas—

17 cases were reported as against 16 in the previous year. Of that number 1 case was removed to hospital.

Encephalitis Lethargica—

7 cases of this disease were reported as having occurred in the Borough during the year. Two cases proved fatal.

The following tables give the age groups—Deaths—Monthly Incidence and Ward Distribution of the Infectious Diseases.

Age Groups of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	2	10	5	10	12	61	47	12	3	1	1	12	164
Pneumonia	27	27	19	10	5	21	10	8	16	11	14	12	180
Varicella	20	37	30	35	69	88	10	2	4	...	1	...	296
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	18	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	5	1	18
Erysipelas													
Diphtheria													
Encephalitis													
Lethargica													
Malaria													
Puerperal Fever													
Enteric Fever													
Variola													
Totals	67	75	55	60	87	175	74	31	41	22	22	13	722

Age Groups (Deaths) of Infectious Diseases.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Total
Measles	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	3
Diphtheria	16	13	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	7	1
Pneumonia													56
Puerperal Fever.													1
Enteric Fever													1
Encep. Lethargica													2
Totals	18	14	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	9	74

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1924.

	Influenza	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever.	Varicella	Ophthal. Neonat'm.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Enceph. Lethargica	Malaria.	Puerperal Fever	Enteric Fever.	Variola	Totals.
January	20	14	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	43
February	36	1	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	47
March	22	17	17	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	61
April	12	12	62	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	90
May	14	16	62	2	2	2	4	3	1	1	1	1	105
June	13	24	27	1	2	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	71
July	15	12	45	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	79
August	6	6	37	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	55
September	3	12	12	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	32
October	17	21	10	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	59
November	7	11	9	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	34
December	15	18	4	2	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	46
Total	180	164	296	18	17	26	7	2	1	1	9	2	722

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1924. Ward Distribution.

Wards.	Chicken Pox	Encephalitis	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Scarlet Fever.	Neonatal pneumonia.	Typhoid Fever.	Small Pox.	Malaria.	Puerperal fever.	Total.
Bebside	86	2	7	2	18	8	—	1	1	—	—	125
Newsham	30	—	2	4	27	25	3	—	—	—	—	91
New Delaval	3	—	—	1	13	30	9	—	—	—	—	56
Croft	91	3	6	—	56	22	3	—	—	—	—	181
Waterloo	23	2	5	1	24	30	—	—	—	1	—	87
Plessey	36	—	2	5	20	33	3	6	1	—	—	106
Ridley	27	—	4	4	22	16	—	2	—	—	—	75
Port Sanitary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total.	296	7	26	17	180	164	18	9	2	2	1	722

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary—

Notifications were 64 in number, with 36 deaths.

	1924.	1923.	1922.
Number of cases	64	77	61
,, deaths	36	27	39
Case Mortality	56 %	24.6	63.9
Death Rate (per 1000 pop.)	1.7	.8	1.2

There are also 36 notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis with 14 deaths.

	1924.	1923.
Number of cases	37	20
,, deaths	14	9
Case Mortality	37 %	45 %
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	.4	.2

With the housing conditions improving it is to be hoped that next year may show an improvement in our tuberculosis mortality.

The following table gives the ages, etc. of all the cases of Tuberculosis reported during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	....	1	....	1	...	...	...
1	3	2	10	2	3	3	3	3
5	2	4	8	2	1	...	...	1
10	6	4	5	1	1	1	...	...
15	2	2	1	3	...	2	2	...
20	3	5	...	1	...	3	...	2
25	4	7	1	1	3	4	...	1
35	4	4	1	...	5	1	...	...
45	2	5	...	...	2	2	1	...
55	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	...
65 & upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	31	33	27	10	20	16	7	7

All the cases notified are primary cases, and while one has no reason to complain of the notifying of patients suffering from this disease, in several incidences notice of the registration of the death and the certificate notifying the disease was receivd at the same time.

Admitted to Sanatorium.

Name of Sanatorium.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Wooley	9	12	21
Ventnor	1	—	1
Stannington	5	3	8
Barrasford	3	—	3
North Shields Union Hospital	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	19	15	34

Discharged from Sanatorium.

Wooley	10	6	16
Stannington	5	5	10
Barrasford	2	—	2
North Shields Union Hospital	—	1	1
Wolsingham	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	18	12	30

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**Measles—**

Measles was not so prevalent as in previous years and with the pneumonic complications is responsible for 3 deaths while Whooping Cough is also responsible for 3 deaths.

Influenza—

Influenza was very prevalent in the early and late months of the year, and took heavy toll from its victims.

The disease accounting for 15 deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Notified	Cases		Vision unimp'ird	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated	At home				
	At hosp't'l					
18	18	—	—	—	—	—

All the children made a good recovery, and there was no impairment of vision in any of the cases.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the following diseases : Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Croup, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).

As compared with 1923 the figures are :—

Disease :—	No. of Deaths.	
	1924.	1923.
Small Pox
Scarlet Fever	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	—
Diphtheria	...	2
Measles	...	21
Whooping Cough	...	7
Enteritis (Diarrhoea)	...	8
Totals	15	39

This is equal to a Death Rate of '41 per 1000 population as against 1·1 per 1000 population in 1923.

Comparison of Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1924-1923

	1924	1923	Incr'se	Decr's
Birth Rate	26·74	26·52	·49	
Death Rate	14·	12·7	1·3	
Zymotic Death Rate	·41	1·1		·69
Tuberculosis (pulmonary D.R.)	·4	8		·4
(other organs D.R.)	·2	·02	·18	
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 births)	80·71	106·3		25·59

HOSPITAL REPORTS

FOR

1924.

PORT SANITARY HOSPITAL, 1924.

Admitted.		Discharged.		Under Treatment 31st Dec.	
Scarlet Fever	33	Scarlet Fever	29	Scarlet Fever	4
Measles	1	Measles	1		
Diphtheria	7	Diphtheria	7		
Erysipelas	1	Erysipelas	1		
Malaria	1	Malaria	1		
Enteric Fever	6	Enteric Fever	3	Enteric Fever	3
Total	49		42		7

Date of Admission.	Name.	By whom sent	Disease	Date of Discharge
Jan. 3	Margaret Dryden	C. of B.	Scarlet	Feb. 13
," 7	Ernest Graham	..	..	," 13
," 8	John York	..	..	," 13
," 8	Katie Hogarth	..	..	," 13
," 12	Peter Smith	Port San Auth	Measles	Jan. 29
," 21	Ada Graham	C. of B.	Scarlet	Feb. 21
Feb. 19	Wm. Henderson	..	Diphtheria	Mar. 18
," 27	Mary Feeles	..	..	Apr. 6
Mar. 14	Adam Keen	..	..	May 1
," 26	James Catchpole	..	Scarlet	," 29
," 28	Gladys York	..	..	," 24
April 18	Walter Allen	..	..	," 27
," 30	Henry Dobson	..	..	July 29
," 30	Isabella Blakey	..	..	May 31
May 2	Samuel Milburn	..	..	June 7
," 3	Lena Hire	..	..	," 7
," 8	Kate Storey	..	..	," 18
," 8	Doris Brewer	..	..	," 18
," 12	Jessie Hebron	..	Erysipelas	May 3
," 21	Lily Gray	..	Scarlet	June 27
June 3	John Reay	..	..	July 14
," 11	Mary Reay	..	..	," 26
," 11	Samuel Haley	..	..	," 15
," 20	Nene Bates	..	Diphtheria	," 12
July 8	Norman Charlton	..	Scarlet	Aug. 12
," 12	Ivy Wear	..	..	," 23
," 15	Catherine Morley	..	..	," 12
," 15	Irene Bates	..	..	," 23
," 21	Maise Turner	..	..	," 23
Sept. 1	Mary Bath	..	..	Oct. 11
," 9	Eleanor Davies	..	..	," 11
Oct. 11	Isabella Tuftin	..	..	Nov. 5
," 15	Elizabeth Thompson	..	..	," 22
," 17	Elsie Vaughan	..	Diphtheria	," 13
," 18	Sydney Bewley	..	Enteric	," 20
," 25	Robert Dean	..	..	Dec. 8
," 25	George Dean	..	..	," 13
," 28	Arthur Osby	Port Sanitary	Malaria	Nov. 18
," 31	Margaret Dean	C. of B.	Enteric	Jan. 3
Nov. 11	Lily Healey	..	Diphtheria	Dec. 16
," 24	Lawrence Halton	..	Enteric & Pnem.	Jan. 3
," 24	Lillian Halton	..	..	," 31
Dec. 3	Ettie Blackburn	..	Diphtheria	Dec. 23
," 6	George Birch	..	Scarlet	," 31
," 6	Edward Clayton	..	..	," 31
," 24	Ernest Graham	..	..
," 24	Robert Graham	..	..
," 31	George Hogarth	..	..
," 31	Joseph Nunn	..	..

Isolation Hospital, Blyth.

31st December, 1924.

I am, Yours faithfully,

B. DINGWALL, MATRON.

Factory Point Hospital.

REPORT FOR 1924.

Admitted.		Discharged.		Under Treatment 31st Dec.	
Scarlet Fever	... 22	Scarlet Fever	... 17	Scarlet Fever	... 5
Diphtheria	... 2	Diphtheria	... 2		

Total	... 24		19		5
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Admission.	Name.	Age	Residence	Disease.	Result	Discharge
April 5	Ella Barrass	9	Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Good	May 10
," 8	Elizabeth Reay	8	New Delaval	do	do.	," 14
," 8	Geo. Brown	9	do.	do.	do.	.. 14
," 30	R. Weightman	6	Blyth	do.	do.	June 9
May 7	W. Ed. Bower	16	do.	Diphtheria	do.	," 30
," 13	John Hale	9	Cowpen Coll.	Scarlet Fever	do.	," 20
," 22	S. Hood	9	Blyth	do.	do.	," 27
," 28	Kathleen Jackson	10	Bebside	Diphtheria	Fatal	," 4
June 16	Isobel Hepple	11	Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Good	July 23
," 20	Jessie Bass	13	do.	do.	do	.. 26
," 24	Josephine Griffiths	9	do.	do.	do	.. 28
Sept. 16	R. Ditchburn	5	Newsham	do.	do.	Oct. 25
Oct. 2	H. Backhouse	12	Isabella Coll.	do.	do.	Nov. 5
," 4	J. B. Topham	7	do.	do.	do.	.. 7
," 6	J. Smith	11	Blyth	do.	do.	.. 7
," 31	Alice Thompson	8	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 6
," 31	Nancy Thompson	4	do.	do.	do.	.. 6
Nov. 4	Sidney Graham	11	do	do	do.	.. 17
," 18	Winnie Forteous	9	do.	do.	do.	.. 24
," 29	Ernest Wirling	15	Well. School	do.		
Dec. 1	Hugh Lovat	13	Blyth	do.		
," 3	T. Sutherland	15	Well. School	do.		
," 4	J. Sutherland	7	Cowpen Coll.	do.		
," 16	L. Brown	7	Blyth	do.		

J. WHITE, Matron.

V.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

(a) General—The borough is well provided for in regard to the home nursing of General and Maternity cases, by

1. The Blyth Nursing Association (4 nurses)
2. The Bebside „ (1 nurse)
3. The Newsham and New Delaval Nursing Association (1 nurse)

These Associations work under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

The record of the work done by them is as follows:—

	Blyth	Bebside	Newsham and New Delaval.
Number of Maternity cases attended	353	52	110
" Surgical "	127	69	117
" Medical "	74	46	34
Total Number of Visits made	9731	3480	3246

As the fees received from patients are quite inadequate to meet the working expenses, the various Associations have to depend to a great extent on voluntary and workmen's contributions for their financial support, but owing to the economic conditions existing in the Borough during the past twelve months, the subscriptions have fallen short of previous years.

(b). No provision is made for the home nursing of infectious diseases.

(c). There is one certificated midwife practising in the Borough.

(d). Hospitals.

For Infectious diseases, the facilities are as in former years, viz. —Factory Point and the Port Sanitary Hospitals, with an interchangeable arrangements with the Bedlingtonshire U.D. Council, which also holds good with regard to cases of Small Pox.

(e). **Tuberculosis.**

Your Council has no hospital accommodation for the treatment of tubercular patients. Cases are sent to Woolley and Stannington Sanatorias.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Blyth, with the County Tuberculosis Officer in attendance.

(f). **No Hospital accommodation** is provided for maternity cases, surgical and medical cases are admitted to the Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital.

(g) **No Institutional provision** is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children in the borough.

(h). **Ambulance facilities** :—For non-infectious and general cases of sickness, your Council has provided a Motor Ambulance, while the Coal Companies have a similar arrangement for their employees. For infectious cases, the Port Sanitary's ambulance is available.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The undermentioned clinics are provided in Blyth for Consultation and Treatment of Ailments.

Name.	Address.	Nature of Accommodation.	By whom provided.
School Clinic.	Wellington House.	Waiting, Dressing, and Consulting Rooms.	Borough of Blyth.
Child Welfare Centre.	Wellington House.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.	Borough of Blyth.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Trotter Street.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.	Northumberland County Council.
Venereal Dispensary.	Nil.		
Day Nurseries	Nil.		

VI.—LABORATORY WORK.

The bacteriological examinations of specimens in aid of the diagnosis of disease is carried out by arrangement with the Northumberland County Council at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the following table shows to what extent this arrangement has been utilised.

Antitoxin Serum is supplied to medical practitioners on request. 72 Bulbs of 2000 units each, or 144,000 units in all were issued during the year.

Bacteriological Returns and Results 1924.

Sent in by	Diphtheria.			Tubercle			Enteric Fever.			Total Specimens Examined.		
	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg	Tot'l
Dr. Moore County T.B. Officer	...	—	—	17	51	68	—	—	—	17	51	68
Other Medical Practitioners	11	38	49	5	20	25	3	7	10	19	65	84
	11	38	49	22	71	93	3	7	10	36	116	152

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

In presenting our Annual Report for the year 1924, we have to state that 861 Notifications of Births were received, viz. .—

Males 435 ; Females 426.

Births not notified, but found out in the course of our visits were 19 (males 9 females 10)

The number of Still-births were 29.

Number of Births registered	...	892
Number of Births notified	...	861
Number of Births not notified	...	31
Number of Infants visited first time	...	880
Re-visits	...	3550
Visits to children (1-5 years)	...	1434
Total number of visits made during the year	...	5864

Table of statistics of visits made during the year:—

District.	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.
Blyth	3598	1062
Bebside	231	92
Cowpen	222	112
Cowpen Colliery	66	15
Isabella Colliery	39	32
New Delaval	94	38
Newsham	101	40
South Newsham	79	43
Totals	4430	1434

In 707 cases the Infants were found to be breast fed.

In 67 cases the Infants were part breast and part artificially fed.

In 58 cases the Infants were wholly artificially fed.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—18 cases of this disease were notified, and 83 visits paid to them. All the cases made a good recovery with no impairment of the child's vision.

Welfare Centre. The Centre is held at Wellington House with, the Medical Officer of Health in attendance.

The Hours are 2—4 p.m.

The Centre was open 52 sessions during the year, and 319 mothers with their babies attended, making a total attendance of 1183, an average attendance of 24 as against 21 in 1923 and 11 in 1922.

It is evidence that the centre, as shewn by the yearly increase, is gaining in popularity and mothers are realizing the benefits to be derived from the advice and instructions given there.

Our visits to the houses are well and kindly received—the improved condition of the infants and mothers is encouraging and is an indication of the valuable results obtained from attention to personal hygiene, which is being developed in connection with the Welfare Work and is evidence that the advice and instructions given to the mothers as to their own health and that of their children are appreciated and acted upon.

The increased attendance at the Centre is very encouraging, the mothers attending taking a great interest in what is being done for the babies. Much is done in matters of education and observation to teach the principles of breast-feeding and the preparation of and the care of children's food—its value and freedom from contamination.

Owing to the economic conditions existing in the Borough during the year, the assistance given in the supply of baby foods, free or at a reduced rate, has been very greatly appreciated.

Food stuffs to the value of £90 have been supplied during the year.

Many demands come upon us, other than those immediately connected with our work, such as advice on household management, cooking, &c. We are always willing to do so and it is pleasing to know that such advice given is appreciated and acted upon.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

R. H. FINLAY,
A. A. HOGARTH,

Health Visitors.

Sanitary Administration.

In accordance with the general order of the Ministry of Health your Inspector has endeavoured by systematic inspection to keep himself informed in respect of any Nuisance existing within the Borough.

Adopted Acts in operation in the Borough.

- 1.—The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- 2.—The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II., III., IV. and V.
- 3.—The Public Streets Works Act, 1892.
- 4.—The Public Libraries Acts, 1892-1901.
- 5.—The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts II. and III. Section 52 to 60, both inclusive ; 62 to 66, both inclusive ; and 68, composed in Parts IV., V., VI. and X.

Bye-Laws in force in the Borough.

- 1.—The cleansing of footways and pavements.
- 2.—For the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, ashes and rubbish and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on all premises, so as to be injurious to Health.
- 3.—Common Lodging Houses.
- 4.—Slaughter Houses.
- 5.—Public Bathing.
- 6.—The Pleasure Ground.
- 7.—Houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.
- 8.—The Regulation of Offensive Trades.
- 9.—New Streets and Buildings, 1924.
- 10.—Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation allowed by L.G.B. on the 11th March, 1913.
- 11.—Street Trading, 1922.
- 12.—Pleasure Grounds, 1923.
- 13.—Omnibuses, 1923.
- 14.—Good Rule and Government, 1923.
- 15.—New Streets and Buildings, 1924.
- 16.—Whirlgigs, Swings and Shooting Ranges, 1924.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

This work, as in former years, has been carried out by your own staff. The cleansing of the ashpits, pail closets and ashbins has been performed at regular intervals. The general ashpit scavenging has been done night shift, while the pail closets and dry pans during the day time. The refuse is deposited partly in tips and on agricultural land.

Privy Conversions and Sanitary Improvements.

The conversion of the privy ashpit type of sanitary convenience to that of the water carriage system has progressed at a satisfactory rate. 113 conversions having been effected during the past twelve months. Of that number 36 have been carried out in the town area, 8 at Bebside Colliery, 49 at New Delaval, and 20 at the Isabella Colliery. This latter marks the completion of the improvement scheme, in the conversion of all the privies, the re-making of the roads, the provision of separate yards with a sufficient water supply to each house at the village, and now the Isabella Colliery can be looked upon as one of the most sanitary in the county. At Bebside the work has progressed very slowly, the conditions existing at the colliery accounting for the slow progress made. At New Delaval the alterations to the houses, sanitary and otherwise, are progressing satisfactorily, and early in 1925 it is expected that all the improvements at the South Row will be completed.

Infectious Diseases.

All cases of infectious diseases have been visited, and the houses supplied with disinfectants. Hospital cases have been removed under the personal supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Disinfection of the infected houses has been carried out immediately after the patient's removal to Hospital or recovery after certification by the medical attendant.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 14 licensed slaughter houses in the Borough, 10 of which are owned by the Corporation, and 6 privately owned. As the position of the latter is objectionable, owing to their close proximity to dwelling houses, the advisability of closing them should be considered by your Council, and provision could be made for them either by an extension of the present Council slaughter houses or the erection of a public abattoir, where they could all be housed under one roof.

Common Lodging Houses.

These have been visited and inspected at regular intervals. They have been kept in a satisfactory state of order and cleanliness. The health of the lodgers has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of the cowsheds in the Borough is 15, and approximately 128 cows are kept. The sheds were generally found in a clean condition and regularly lime-washed.

- (a) Milk Supply. In addition to the registered cow-keepers a large quantity of milk (700 gallons) is imported daily, and distributed by milk purveyors.
- (b) Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918. Under this Order dried milk of various brands was supplied to necessitous mothers by the Council at the Welfare Centre, a service greatly appreciated.

Food and Drugs Act.

No action was necessary under this Act during the year.

Water Supply.

This needs no description, the supply from Hepscott, Healey Wood, and the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company being ample for all the requirements of the Borough.

The consumption of water from the various sources is—

Source of supply.	Total Gallons
Hepscott	51,131,000
Healey Wood	3,291,000
Newcastle and Gateshead Co.	215,323,000
Total	269,755,000

Drainage and Sewage.

The system of drainage in the Borough may be considered as satisfactory, although in certain parts of the town flooding occasionally happens, due generally to an abnormal high tide, accompanied by a strong east wind, and very rarely due to an excessive rainfall, as in May.

Disinfection.

In the absence of a Steam Disinfector (an apparatus your Council requires) the disinfection of clothing and bedding is very unsatisfactory. All infected houses are disinfected, either after the removal of the patient to hospital or on recovery.

The disinfectants used are "Sulphume" and "Formalin."

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Including all who are employed in work connected with the Public Health, whether under the Health Welfare Centre or Education Committees :—

Medical Officer of Health	}	
School Medical Officer		J. M. MACLACHLAN, M.B., C.M.
Port Medical Officer		
Deputy do.		W. I. GORDON, M.A., M.B., C.M.
Ophthalmic Surgeon (part time)		A. T. PATERSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
School Dentist	do.	A. MAUGHAN, L.D.S.
Veterinary Surgeon to Corporation		J. ISHERWOOD, M.R.C.V.S.
Sanitary Inspector		J. FAWCETT (Dec'd. 31st Dec., 1924.)
Health Visitors		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Miss A. FINLAY Miss A. HOGARTH. </div>
School Nurses		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Miss S. CARROLL Miss L. GRAHAM. </div>
Hospital (Factory Point)		Miss J. WHITE (Matron)
Do. (Port Sanitary)		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Miss B. DINGWALL (Matron.) Miss R. DAVIES. </div>

Office of Health Department—Wellington House, Blyth

Housing.

The estimate of the number of houses required to meet the needs of the Borough was 2000 under the State aided scheme. 550 houses have been erected by the Council, and all are occupied. The shortage of houses in the Borough is still very acute. 615 applications are in hand, and new applications are constantly being received. Of that number 487 are living in furnished rooms and sub-let rooms, and in with their parents; while 128 are householders.

It is obvious therefore that overcrowding exists to a great extent, and from the existing conditions it is impossible for the people in the houses to maintain a good standard of health, and as only 55 houses were built and certified as fit for habitation during the year, it is therefore very evident that at the present rate of house-building the prospects of the majority of these applicants getting a house is very remote.

Streets and Roads.

With one or two exceptions in the Croft Ward all the streets within the Borough have now been repaired and are in a satisfactory condition.

Factories and Workshops.

The number on the register at the end of the year was as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
Dressmakers and Milliners		...	...	...	16
Tailors, &c.	...	...	...	...	10
Builders and Joiners	...	...	...	...	27
Printers	..	..	...	...	5
Engineers and Blacksmiths		...	...	...	16
Plumbers and Gasfitters		...	...	...	11
Boot and Shoe Repairers		...	...	...	11
Painters and Decorators		...	...	...	8
Motor and Cycle Works		...	...	...	10
Picture Framers	..	..	..	..	3
Saddlers	..	..	..	..	2
Laundries	...	..	...	...	2
Sugar Boilers	...	..	..	..	2
Shirt and Hosiery Makers		..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous Trades	...	..	..	..	11
 Total number of Workshops on Register	...				<u>153</u>

The various premises were inspected from time to time, and any defect found was remedied.

**Removal of House Refuse and Scavenging from Ashpits and Privies,
Trade Refuse, etc.**

Total houses in the Borough	..	..	7,325
Total Population	...	...	33,350
Total loads of Refuse removed during the year	...	...	32,224
Quantity per house	...	..	4.53 loads.
Quantity per head of Population	..	..	.99 loads.
Total cost of Scavenging	£8,866,	less £183	
Income from Trade Refuse	= Nett	£8,683	
Cost per Load	..	..	£0 5 2½
Cost per House	..	..	£1 3 8½
Cost per head of Population		..	£0 5 2½

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

For year ended December 31st, 1924.

(Tabular Statement as required by Article V.)

{ Inspector—Mr. J. Fawcett (deceased.)	Total.	Sub-Districts
1. Number of Dwelling Houses inspected ...	52	
2. Number considered as 'unfit for habitation' ...	45	
Complaints as to "unfitness" by—		
3.—(a) Householders	Nil	
4.—(b) Parish Councils	Nil	
Closing Orders—		
5.—Number of representations to L.A. ...	Nil	
6.—Number of Orders made	Nil	
7.—Number determined after repair ...	Nil	
Number of houses made fit for habitation—		
8.—(a) After informal notices	45	
9.—(b) After notice under Section 28	Nil	
10.—(c) After closing order made	Nil	
11.—(d) By L.A. in default of owner	Nil	
Number of houses closed voluntarily—		
12.—(a) After notice under Section 28	Nil	
13.—(b) Without notice	Nil	
Number of houses demolished—		
14.—(a) Under demolition orders	Nil	
15.—(b) Voluntarily by owners	Nil	
General character of defects— Defective Roofs, Spouts, Plaster, and Sash Cords Defective Privy Ashpits.		
Housing Act, 1890.		
Number of "Representations" as to obstructive buildings	Nil	
Number of such building demolished ...	Nil	
Representation as to unhealthy areas ...	Nil	

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, Year ended December 31st, 1924.

Sanitary Officers Order, 1922, Art. 19 (12.)

District—BLYTH.

Population, 33,350.

Inspector—Mr. J. FAWCETT (Deceased.)

		No. of Defects during year.		No. outstanding from previous year.		TOTAL.		No. remedied after interview.		No. of Informal Notices served.		Notices served.		Defects remedied thereafter.		In progress or before final decision.		Legal proceedings	
		Structural Defects	55	...	...	...	...	45	45	2	2	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dampness	8	...	...	...	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Unit for habitation	45	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Defective Spouting	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nuisances	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Insufficient Unsatisfactory	7	7	7	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Foul	15	15	15	...	...	15	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Untrapped or Defective	3	3	3	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Insufficient	11	7	7	...	...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Structural Defects	37	37	37	...	...	37	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Insufficient	96	77	77	...	...	51	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Foul	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Slaughter Houses	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Tents, Vans, etc.	7	7	7	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Offensive Trades	12	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Workshops and Workplaces	64	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Keeping of Animals	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles, Privy—	113	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Ashpits as above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Ashpits improperly used	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Petrol Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		TOTAL.	820	42	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	2

Summary of Work Effected for Year 1924.

Inspector—Mr. John Fawcett, (deceased)	After letter or interview	After Infor- mal Notice	After Statu- tory Notice	TOTAL
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.				
Privies abolished	...			
Privies repaired	...			
Privy Ashpits abolished	...	113		113
Privy Ashpits roofed and repaired	...	4		4
Pail Closets abolished	...			
Water Closets provided	...	113		113
" " repaired	...			
Sanitary Bins provided	...	113		113
" " renewed	...			
DRAINAGE.				
New Drains constructed	...	114		114
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	3		3
Additional Gullies provided	...			
Old Gullies replaced	...			
Scullery Sinks provided	...			
" Waste-pipes repaired	...			
" " " trapped	...			
Yards repaired or re-constructed	...	6		6
WATER SUPPLY.				
Sources closed or discontinued.....		No. of Houses effected		
New Service provided	17	No. of Houses effected	17	
RIVERS POLLUTION :—				
Cases detected	Nil	Particulars		
Remedied		do.		
S.D. Works provided.....	1	do.		
.....			

Inspector—MR. J. FAWCETT, (deceased).

Unsound Food.		Surrendered	Seized	Legal Proceedings
1. Beef (Home-killed) Stones	...			
2. „ (Imported) „	...	14½	Nil.	Nil.
3. Mutton (Home killed) „	...			
4. „ (Imported) „	...			
5. Pork „	...			
6. Game lbs.	...			
7. Poultry „	...			
8. Fish „	...			
9. Fruit „	...			
10. Canned Goods ; Tins or Cases	...	½ stone Canned Beef	Nil.	Nil
11. Bacon lbs.	...			
12. Cheese „	...			
13. Butter „	...			
14. Lard „	...			
15. Other Foods :—	.....		
.....				
.....				

REMARKS :—(with result of any consequent legal proceedings)

FOODS & DRUGS ACTS : none.

No.	Samples taken.	Analysis.	Remarks as to action taken, and result.

Requirements of the Borough.

- (1) The provision of more houses.
- (2) The erection of a Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
- (3) The consideration of a public abattoir.

In concluding my report, I wish to tender my best thanks to you, Sir, as Chairman, and Members of the Health Committee, and also to the Staff for the valuable assistance rendered me, and for the able manner in which all their duties have been carried out throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.





